

Your answer is—we trust in God to keep them safe

For God is wise, and what you say is—
“The best way to die is dying free.”

I want to thank Miss Seviere for sending me her poem. I want to join with her and express my faith in our troops and my hope for their safe and speedy return.

HONORING MARY IMBRIACO

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Mary Imbriaco of Groton, Connecticut who is celebrating her 100th birthday on April 9, 2003.

Mary was born in Italy and traveled to the United States with her family at the age of 13. She grew up in the town of Groton and became a United States citizen in the 1930's.

Dedicated to her family and her community, Mary raised four children and worked almost her entire life, only retiring recently at the age of 85. Just 10 years ago she suffered a stroke. Her strong will and determination have helped her to triumph during this difficult time.

Today Mary resides in the same house that she has called her home since 1933. She has a passion for music and singing and brings many gifts to her community and her family. Mary's life is an inspiration to all who know her and I commend her on a lifetime of achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage the Members of the House of Representatives to join me in celebration of Mary Imbriaco's 100th birthday. She is a blessing to our community and to this country.

Tanti Auguri!

SECURING BLESSINGS OF PROVIDENCE FOR PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND OUR ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I hope and pray for the safe return of our troops, and I pray for peace. I know that many other Americans do as well. I do not believe, however, that it is the place of government to tell Americans how or when to pray. Matters of faith are deeply personal, and it is one of the founding principles of this government that the state should not intrude upon them.

IN HONOR OF HUGH AND MARTY DOWNEY AND THE PLACE OF HOPE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hugh and Marty Downey of Ar-

vada, Colorado, who have dedicated their lives to over five hundred orphans in Matoso, Kenya.

Raising more than \$300,000 a year through private donations and small businesses, the Downeys are able to run a home and medical center for the children that is known as “the place of hope” or Lalmba to the people of Kenya.

Stationed with the U.S. Army as a communications specialist in Africa over forty years ago, Hugh Downey knew little of Africa and the role he would play with Kenya's children. Today, he and Marty spend six months out of the year raising 500 children in African grass huts and the other six months with their own grown children back in Colorado.

Home to 2.2 million out of 3 million AIDS victims, Africa has found itself in an epidemic affecting both children and adults. In Kenya, 190,000 deaths a year are caused by HIV/AIDS, so it is not surprising that the majority of the Downey's orphans were born to parents who died from AIDS. The rate of Kenyans contracting the AIDS virus has doubled in the past decade, and will continue to rise and affect children.

As AIDS continues to greatly affect the African economy and society, Marty and Hugh Downey have been called upon to educate and house an increasing number of orphans. Many African adults, because they suffer from AIDS, are unable to support their families—in fact, their children are forced to drop out of school and work to support their dying parents. As the cost for AIDS medication and school fees increase, most children have no choice but to begin working at a young age. By offering education and preventive AIDS medication for the children, the Downey's are giving these Kenyan children the chance at a future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Marty and Hugh Downey for their dedication and commitment to bettering the future for over 500 African children with their creation of Lalmba and to wish them continued success with their chosen mission of mercy and hope.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN CARL D. PURSELL UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN HALL OF FAME

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing former Congressman Carl D. Pursell, who was recently inducted into the Plymouth, Michigan Hall of Fame.

Congressman Pursell's career in public service began as a member of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners. He was quickly elected to the Michigan State Senate, and subsequently to eight terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he held numerous leadership posts.

Congressman Pursell was a national figure in efforts to balance the budget. As Budget Task Force Chairman, he led the authorship of two federal budgets proposing no new taxes and no new spending. As the Ranking Republican on the Labor, Health and Human Serv-

ices, and the Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Congressman Pursell oversaw funding for all of the nation's job training, labor, health care, biomedical research, and education programs. Congressman Pursell also served on the Appropriations Committee, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, and the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee during his tenure.

Carl, who once graced this chamber with his intellect, wit, and kindness, has been, is now, and always will be a tremendous inspiration to our community back home, and to this Congressman in particular.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to former Congressman Carl D. Pursell for his fine service to our country as he is inducted into the Plymouth, Michigan Hall of Fame.

CONCERNING TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES HELD AS PRISONER OF WAR BY IRAQI AUTHORITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I urge all Americans to unite in support of our troops now engaged in battle in Iraq.

Our Commander and Chief, with the approval of Congress, called our armed forces into action to disarm a rogue regime that threatens our freedom and security.

With our troops now in the line of fire, with more than 28 Americans having made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, the time for protest has past. The time for unity has arrived.

We live in a free society where we all share the right to debate the best policies for our nation. And in a free society, each of us also has the right to assemble and to protest. These are sacred rights.

But once our nation has decided to act through our democratic process, and once our troops have been sent into harm's way, the time for debate and protest is over.

Just as we share sacred rights, we also share sacred duties. Today, with American troops in the field, we all share a duty to unite behind them and ensure that our actions do them no harm.

But if just one floor speech by a member of Congress, just one acceptance speech by a Hollywood director, or just one street protest causes Saddam Hussein and his forces to hold on for even one day longer, then those responsible will have done a terrible disservice to those serving so bravely in our name.

I would never question any American's right to speak or protest, I only question the wisdom of doing so at this time.

No matter what political beliefs we hold, we are all Americans—and those soldiers in uniform fighting on the front lines are our brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers.

Those who undertake further protests at this point only fuel the resolve of our enemy, and they must take full responsibility for their actions.

Perhaps some need to be reminded why we are fighting and what we are fighting against.

Americans were sent to disarm an evil regime that has stockpiled weapons of mass destruction that threaten the peace and security of the free world.

26,000 liters of anthrax. 38,000 liters of botulinum toxin. 500 tons of sarin, mustard gas, and VX nerve agents; enough chemical and biological weapons to kill millions of innocent people in a single act of terrorism.

I agree with President Bush, the risk of doing nothing is far greater than the risk of doing something.

Americans were also sent to Iraq to end a regime of terror. A regime that has used chemical weapons on its own population, a regime that has made rape and torture an instrument of public policy.

Just ask 68-year-old mother, Zahra Khafi, recently liberated by American forces, whose 28-year-old son was summarily executed two years ago by Saddam Hussein's regime for merely practicing his religion, a branch of Islam out of official favor. She greeted our troops saying, "peace be upon you, peace be upon you."

"Should I be afraid?" she said, wiping her eyes. "Is Saddam coming back?"

Ask All Khemy, who said after the 1st Marine Expeditionary Unit liberated his village, "Americans very good . . . Iraq wants to be free."

President Ronald Reagan once said "no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women." The minions of tyranny and evil are learning that lesson today.

Our nation has met much greater challenges and we have faced darker days. During the Civil War when brother fought brother, President Abraham Lincoln solemnly stated, "I have often been driven to my knees with the overwhelming conviction I had no where else to go."

I believe now is a good time for all Americans to be driven to our knees and pray for a speedy victory . . . pray for our men and women in uniform, and pray for a peaceful world no longer threatened with weapons of mass destruction.

Our cause is just. Our victory is inevitable. Freedom will prevail. But we must all must unite behind our troops today.

CONCERNING TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES HELD AS PRISONER OF WAR BY IRAQI AUTHORITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, March 8th, citizens of the Santa Clarita Valley gathered at a busy intersection to show their support for our American troops and for President Bush. Over a period of several hours, hundreds of people of all ages participated. Carrying signs and waving flags, they elicited a steady chorus of honking and cheering from passing motorists.

Barbara Barrick, Elizabeth Makous, Stacy and Brad Meyer, Denise Grimes and Betty Lanning planned this wonderful display of patriotism with assistance from the Santa Clarita

Congress of Republicans, the Republican Women Federated, the Young Republicans and the Lincoln Club.

Judy Belty, a young soldier's mother, was so touched by the demonstration that she wrote the following letter to the editor of our local paper, *The Signal*. I share it with my colleagues in hopes they will find it as inspiring as I did.

EDITOR: As I was driving home today I saw about 100 people dressed in red, white and blue, waving flags, holding up signs and cheering in support of our president and troops. Most of the cars passed by honking their horns in support of the waving display. I wanted to stop right there, get out of my car and hug the first person I ran into. I wanted to say "thank you" for being a voice for my boy.

I am the mom of an Army 82nd Airborne medic soldier and my heart has been heavy with the rhetoric that has been voiced in the name of "peace." I think I can safely say that none of us wants war, not even President Bush. But it is no secret that our country's freedom has always had a cost.

Since 9-11, I have been asked often if I think we should go to war. I think most expect me to say no, because I am a soldier's mom. Well, as a mom, I don't want my son or any other young person to have to experience what may be ahead. As an American, I want to keep my right to speak my opinion, to practice my Christian faith, to display my country's flag, to make choices for my life that are usually politically incorrect," and even to write this letter. I want to be able to ride up an elevator and believe I am safe, to board a plane and reach my destination. More importantly, I want this freedom for our children.

I drove by the supporting display about three times, and each time I was stirred with emotion. I wished my son could see the support for what he is doing. When I hear others speak against the war, I wonder if they really remember the human lives stationed all over the world for them?

The military is not paradise. It's not all fun and games. My son has been to the Middle East and will probably be returning again within a few months. I have so much compassion in my heart for the moms of sons who were in combat, for the spouses of soldiers, and the children.

Do I want war? No, but I want peace and freedom. Do I want my son to go to war? Of course not, but I am extremely proud of him and his fellow comrades for valuing my life over their own.

So to those of you that stood out there, thank you. Thank you for helping people remember that regardless of whether you agree with war, there are real men and women, our troops, in need of our love, our support, our words of encouragement. Thank you and please, God in heaven, bless America.

HONORING PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of a great American, Phyllis Schlafly. Mrs. Schlafly was named one of the 100 most important women of the 20th century by the *Ladies' Home Journal*, and has been a national leader of the conservative movement since the publication of her bestselling 1964 book, *A Choice Not An Echo*.

Mrs. Schlafly has been a leader of the pro-family movement since 1972, when she started her national volunteer organization now called Eagle Forum. In a ten-year battle, she led the profamily movement to victory over the principal legislative goal of the radical feminists, called the Equal Rights Amendment. An articulate and successful opponent of the radical feminist movement, she appears in debate on college campuses more frequently than any other conservative.

Mrs. Schlafly's monthly newsletter called *The Phyllis Schlafly Report* is now in its 36th year. Her syndicated column appears in 100 newspapers, her radio commentaries are heard daily on 460 stations, and her radio talk show on education called "Phyllis Schlafly Live" is heard weekly on 45 stations. Both can be heard on the internet.

In addition, she is the author or editor of 21 books on subjects as varied as family (*The Power of the Positive Woman*) and feminism (*Feminist Fantasies*), nuclear strategy (*Strike From Space and Kissinger on the Couch*), education (*Child Abuse in the Classroom*), and child care (*Who Will Rock the Cradle?*). Her recent book, *Turbo Reader*, is a system to enable every parent to teach his child to read.

Mrs. Schlafly is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Washington University, received her J.D. from Washington University Law School, and received her Master's in Political Science from Harvard University. She is a lawyer who served on the Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution appointed by President Reagan, has testified before more than 50 Congressional and State Legislative committees on constitutional, national defense, and family issues.

The mother of six children and an Illinois Mother of the Year, Mrs. Schlafly is America's best-known advocate of the dignity and honor that we as a society owe to the role of fulltime homemaker.

Phyllis Schlafly was honored in 2002 by Focus on the Family as the Mother of the Profamily Movement, and in 2003) she was the honoree at dinners hosted by the Council for National Policy and the Conservative Political Action Committee. She has since 1972 traveled at least annually to Alabama to debate and speak eloquently on issues that affect the family.

The Alabama Policy Institute, Christian Coalition of Alabama, and the Southeast Law Institute have joined the Eagle Forum of Alabama to honor Mrs. Schlafly and express their admiration, appreciation, and affirmation of her exemplary service to God, family and country. As President Ronald Reagan said: "Our nation needs the kind of volunteer service you and Eagle Forum have demonstrated . . ." And as American Conservative Union Chairman David Keene said in a statement this year about Mrs. Schlafly: "If there are giants among us, you are certainly one. The movement of which we are all part would never have achieved the successes it has without you . . . you had the courage to be 'conservative before it was cool'. . . the fact that so many young people are attracted to our banner today is a tribute to your work."

I stand with these groups and individuals to honor Phyllis Schlafly for her service to our country and culture, and her commitment to conservative family values.